

NORTH CAROLINA ALARM SYSTEMS LICENSING BOARD

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MINUTES

OF THE

NORTH CAROLINA ALARM SYSTEMS LICENSING BOARD

ELECTRICAL PERMIT REVIEW COMMITTEE

DATE: February 18, 2011

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Bailey & Dixon, LLP

434 Fayetteville Street, Suite 2500 Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

None

SUBMITTED BY: Anthony Bonapart

Deputy Director

MEMBERS PRESENT: MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Taylor
Courtney Brown
Brad Smith
Andy Felton
George Bish
John McDonald

STAFF PRESENT

Deputy Director Anthony Bonapart Attorney Charles McDarris

CALL TO ORDER

10:05 a.m. Charles McDarris opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Charles reminded everyone on why the committee was meeting today. The purpose of the committee is to decide how to respond to the latest requirements being imposed on the industry by Electrical Inspectors. Charles read 74D-11(c) to the group which states:

74D-11. Enforcement.

(c) The regulation of alarm systems businesses shall be exclusive to the Board; however, any city or county shall be permitted to require an alarm systems business operating within its jurisdiction to register and to supply information regarding its license, and may adopt an ordinance to require users of alarm systems to obtain revocable permits when alarm usage involves automatic signal transmission to a law enforcement agency.

Brad Smith stated that Charlotte Electrical Inspectors require low voltage permits to install all alarm systems. They want to inspect the system to ensure it is in compliance. They will hold up installation of the system if you do not comply. The Electrical Inspectors do not have the background to inspect the systems they are demanding to check. They seem to be following orders of the Insurance Commission – they are also demanding cut-sheets on the systems and drawings that lay out where the systems are located. When we hand this material over to them the drawings become public record, which means anyone can study the nomenclature of the system. Time Warner is resisting this requirement.

George Bish related that one of the things that is happening is for example, the Nursing Home Association wants NFPA to say what is the minimum security requirements for their facilities. NFPA can say these are your risk and this is the minimum security requirements – Nursing homes can meet the minimum requirements and say we met the standard. We are going to collide with other organizations on issues like this.

Andy Felton commented that current requirements are too open to interpretation.

Brad Smith believes that what we are discussing is legislation of the industry. Electrical Inspectors are asking us to comply with requirements that violate state regulations.

James Taylor reiterated the fact that rules requires licensees to have an electrical license.

Brad Smith reminded the members that the rule can be changed to stipulate that an electrical license is not required to install alarm systems.

James Taylor suggested that we invite someone from the Electrical Board to a meeting to discuss these issues.

Charles McDarris stated that he called the attorney for the Department of Insurance but has been unsuccessful in setting up a meeting.

Courtney Brown related that he recently attended a meeting in Morrisville, North Carolina where Electrical requirements must be met before you can install a system. He related that years ago we had a similar disagreement with representatives in Greenville North Carolina who placed stipulations on the industry that violated 74D. Courtney stated that we wrote letters and met with them and worked the problems out – that is the same thing we need to do in this situation.

John McDonald reminded everyone that we appear to be talking about two different organizations – the North Carolina Electrical Board and Electrical Inspectors.

Charles McDarris agreed and said we are both involved in wiring the system – alarm and electrical. He stated that the Alarm Board does not do inspections, but that doesn't mean we give up the authority to inspect the systems. The industry only has to follow a reasonable standard of how the system is installed.

James Taylor reminded the committee that the Board asked for Spec-Sheets at a recent Board meeting on a product. The complaint dealt with glass breaks, but specifications on the product were reviewed by the Board.

Andy Felton pointed out that Electrical Inspectors are not inspecting their own systems to the degree that they want to inspect alarm systems.

Brad Smith agreed and suspects that this is all about dollars. They do not have the expertise to inspect the systems but are collecting money for the permits.

Courtney Brown suggested that Charles write a letter to the Insurance Commission to get the Alarm Board and the Electrical Contractors Board together to discuss these issues.

Charles McDarris reminded everyone that the Electrical Inspectors represent a governmental agency, but what they are asking for may fall under the public records law. The first thing we need to do is send a letter to the Department of Insurance.

Courtney Brown stated that his main concern is public records. When we provide them with data on our system it becomes public record and anyone can study the security system.

George Bish pointed out that a hospital would not want the security system for their pharmacy disseminated to the public.

Brad Smith agreed and said we should focus on the security risk of releasing this information to the public and regulatory requirements under 74D.

Charles McDarris reite	erated everything that was discussed and said he would draft a letter to the
Insurance Commission	n and have it ready for the Board to review at its March meeting. After the
Board votes to approv	e the letter he will forward it to the Insurance Commission.
Meeting Adjourned:	11:30 a.m.

Anthony B. Bonapart
Deputy Director